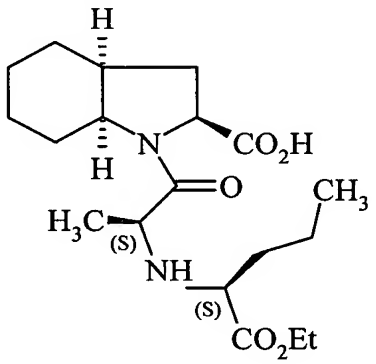
LISTING OF CLAIMS

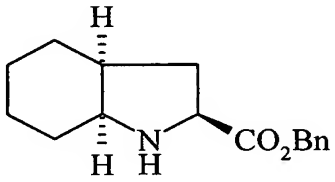
Claims 1-6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A process for the industrial synthesis of perindopril of formula (I)

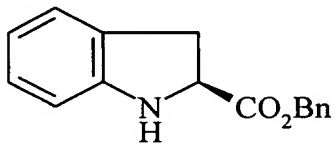


(I)

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein a benzyl ester of formula (IIa) or (IIb) :



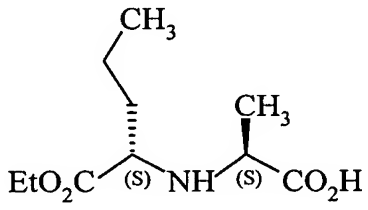
(IIa)



(IIb)

or an addition salt of the ester of formula (IIa) or (IIb) with a mineral acid or organic acid, is reacted

with a compound of formula (III) :



(III)

in the presence of a coupling agent selected from:

~~(1,3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl-carbodiimide hydrochloride,~~

(1,3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl-carbodiimide hydrochloride / 1-hydroxybenzotriazole[[,]] and

~~(1,3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl-carbodiimide hydrochloride / 1-hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazole,~~

~~(1,3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl-carbodiimide hydrochloride / N-hydroxysuccinimide,~~

~~(1,3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl-carbodiimide hydrochloride / 3-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2,3-benzotriazine,~~

~~(1,3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethyl-carbodiimide hydrochloride / N-hydroxyphthalimide,~~

~~dicyclohexylcarbodiimide / 1-hydroxy-7-azabenzotriazole,~~

~~dicyclohexylcarbodiimide / N-hydroxysuccinimide,~~

~~dicyclohexylcarbodiimide / 3-hydroxy-3,4-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2,3-benzotriazine,~~

~~dicyclohexylcarbodiimide / N-hydroxyphthalimide,~~

~~O-(benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~O-(7-azabenzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~O-(benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate,~~

~~benzotriazol-1-yl-oxytripyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~benzotriazol-1-yl-oxy-tris(dimethylamino)phosphonium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~O-(benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-bis(tetramethylene)uronium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~O-(benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-bis(pentamethylene)uronium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~chloro-tripyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~chloro-1,1,3,3-bis(tetramethylene)formamidinium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~chloro-1,1,3,3-bis(pentamethylene)formamidinium hexafluorophosphate,~~

~~N-ethoxycarbonyl-2-ethoxy-1,2-dihydroquinoline,~~

~~O-[(ethoxycarbonyl)-cyanomethyleneamino]-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate,~~

~~O-(3,4-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2,3-benzotriazin-3-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate,~~

~~O-(3,4-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2,3-benzotriazin-3-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate / 1-hydroxybenzotriazole,~~

~~O-(3,4-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2,3-benzotriazin-3-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate / N-methylmorpholine,~~

~~O-(3,4-dihydro-4-oxo-1,2,3-benzotriazin-3-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate / collidine,~~
~~O-(1,2-dihydro-2-oxo-1-pyridyl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate,~~
~~O-(1,2-dihydro-2-oxo-1-pyridyl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate / 1-hydroxybenzotriazole,~~
~~O-(1,2-dihydro-2-oxo-1-pyridyl)-1,1,3,3-bis(tetramethylene)uronium hexafluorophosphate,~~
~~O-(1,2-dihydro-2-oxo-1-pyridyl)-1,1,3,3-bis(tetramethylene)uronium hexafluorophosphate / 1-hydroxy-benzotriazole,~~
~~O-(N-succinimidyl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate,~~
~~O-(N-succinimidyl)-1,1,3,3-bis(tetramethylene)uronium tetrafluoroborate,~~
~~O-(N-succinimidyl)-1,1,3,3-bis(tetramethylene)uronium tetrafluoroborate / 1-hydroxy-benzotriazole,~~
~~O-(5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboximido)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium tetrafluoroborate,~~
propanephosphonic anhydride,
~~N-hydroxy-5-norbornene-2,3-dicarboxylic acid imide,~~
~~and N-hydroxy-1,2-dihydro-2-oxo-pyridine,~~

optionally in the presence of a base,
to yield, after catalytic hydrogenation in the presence of palladium, perindopril of formula (I), which is converted, if desired, into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

8. (previously presented) The process of Claim 7 for the synthesis of perindopril in the form of its tert-butylamine salt.

9. (previously presented) The process of Claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (IIa) is used as starting material.

10. (previously presented) The process of Claim 7, wherein the compound of formula (IIb) is used as starting material.

11. (previously presented) The process of Claim 9, wherein the hydrogenation reaction is carried out under a hydrogen pressure of less than 10 bars.

12. (previously presented) The process of Claim 10, wherein the hydrogenation reaction is carried out under a hydrogen pressure of from 10 to 35 bars.